Lesson: 17

Growing with Value

The Enormous Picnic

Great crowds of people followed Jesus because they saw the **miracles** that he did, and they wanted **healing** for themselves and their families. Jesus and his disciples were so busy they didn't even have time to eat. He decided that they needed to get away and just be by themselves for a while.



He and his disciples crossed the **Sea of Galilee** in a boat, but people saw where they were going and came out of the surrounding cities and were waiting for them on the other side of the sea. When Jesus saw the people, he felt **sorry** for them. They were like a flock of sheep without a shepherd to lead them. Jesus spoke to them about the **kingdom of God** and healed those who needed healing.

It was getting late in the day, and the disciples came to him and suggested that he send the crowd away so they could go into the neighbouring countryside and villages to find a place to eat and spend the night. Jesus said, "They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat." The disciples knew they didn't have enough money to buy food for all those people. There was about **5,000** men plus all the women and children!

He asked **Philip** where they could buy bread. **Andrew**, the brother of Simon Peter, told Jesus that there was a boy in the crowd who had brought a lunch. The lad, or someone who cared for him, had planned ahead and he had five barley loaves of bread and two small fish. Even though he had brought the lunch for himself, he was willing to let Jesus use it.

There was a lot of grass in that place, and Jesus told the disciples to have the people sit down in groups of **50** and **100.** Then He took the loaves and **gave thanks** and started breaking them and passing the bread out to his disciples. The bread began to **multiply** and make more bread. They broke the bread again and again.

He did the same with the **two fish**. They kept passing out the food until everyone had eaten until they were full. Then Jesus told the disciples to pick up the remaining food so nothing would be wasted. Do you know how much was left? There were **twelve baskets** full of leftover bread and fish!

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